

The current and deflated values of striped bass landings have fluctuated widely similar to the patterns of pounds landed and the number of trips over the 1994 to 2002 period (Figure 33). A strong overall increase was exhibited, and values have been increasing since 2000. During the 1994 to 2002 period, the current value ranged from a minimum of \$221,000 in 1996 to a maximum of \$855,000 in 2002 (Table 39). The deflated value was similar to the patterns of the current value for striped bass having fluctuated over the 1994 to 2002 period but exhibited an overall increase (Figure 33). The deflated value ranged from a minimum of \$59,000 in 1996 to a maximum of \$199,000 in 2002 (Table 39).

The current price per pound exhibited an overall decrease from 1994 to 2002 (Figure 33), and the ranged from a minimum of \$1.16 in 2000 to a maximum of \$1.36 in 1995 (Table 39). The deflated price per pound exhibited a slow overall decrease from 1994 to 2002 (Figure 33), and ranged from a minimum of \$0.28 in 2000 and 2002 to a maximum of \$0.38 in 1994 (Table 39).

During the 1994 to 2002 period, striped bass were primarily harvested using gill nets, haul seines, and trawls (Tables 40, 41, and 42). Gill nets ranked first accounting for 56% of the pounds landed, 88% of the number of trips, and 56% of the value. Haul seines ranked second accounting for 23% of the pounds landed, 3% of the number of trips, and 24% of the value. Trawls ranked third accounting for 17% of the pounds landed, 1% of the number of trips, and 17% of the value. The only other gear type that accounted for more than 1% of the total landings by weight for striped bass was the pound net (Table 41).

Of all the gear types, trawls had the largest CPUE (926 lb/trip). However, differences in CPUE among gear types may have been due to management measures rather than a particular gear type's catch efficiency. For example, trawls had the highest CPUE but also had the highest trip limit (approximately 100 fish per trip), while haul seines were only allowed approximately 50 fish per trip and gill nets 10 fish per trip (J. Dilday, NCDMF, personal communication). Haul seines produced the highest current price per pound (\$1.26) (Tables 41 and 42). The deflated price per pound remained consistent across all gear types (\$0.31-\$0.32) (Table 42).